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Weekend, January 22-24, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhi

MOVIES WILL GET BETTER SOON

Comic book and Coens films are around the corner. 16

See how we ranked every Philly athlete. 24-25

HOW BAD WILL IT BE?

Pretty bad, says meteorologist John Bolaris, who calls for up to 16 inches of snow and winds gusting more than 35 miles an hour. 6

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FRINGE ARTS

RISE IN JOBLESS CLAIMS

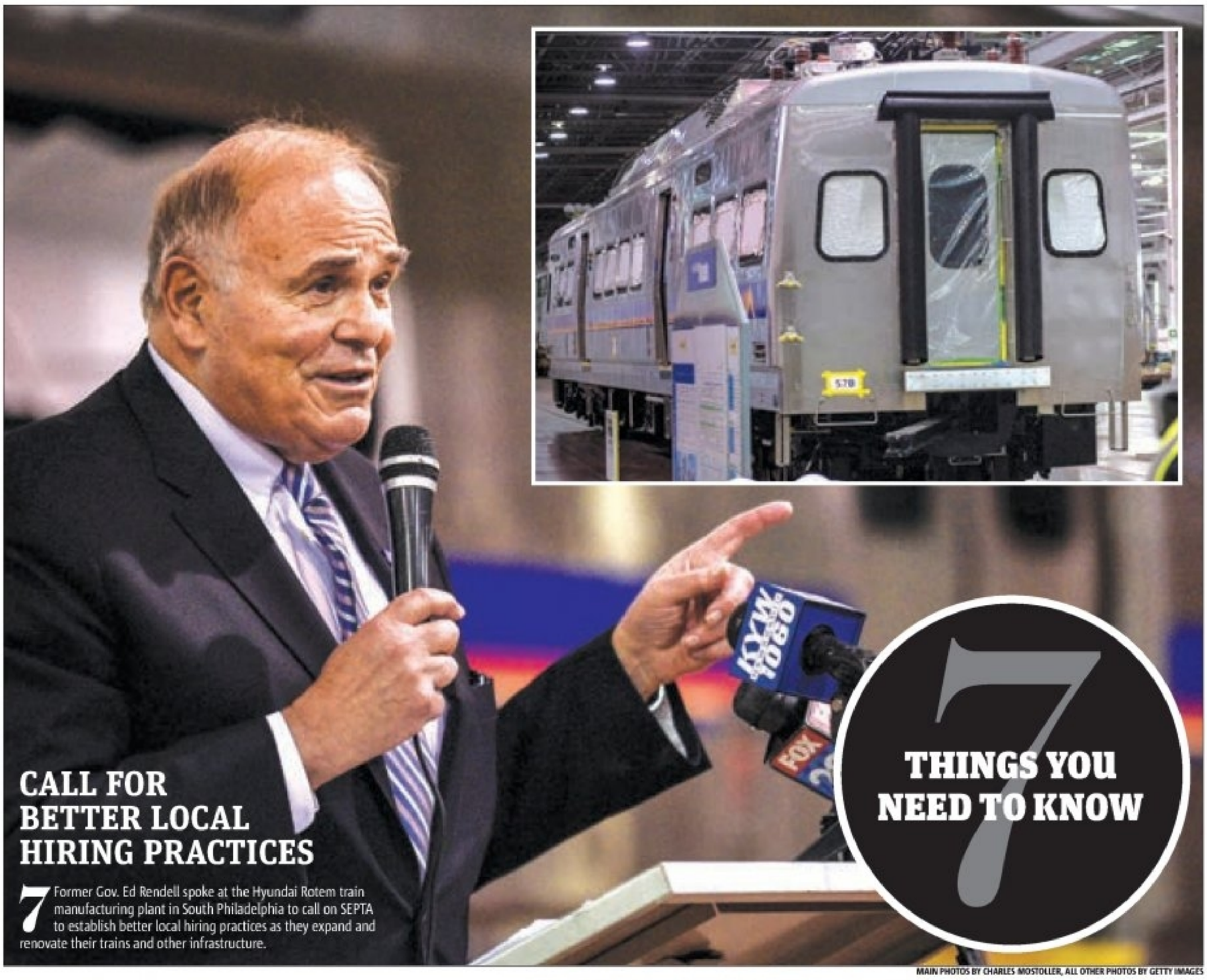
1 The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose to a six-month high last week, suggesting some loss of momentum in the labor market amid a sharp economic slowdown and major stock market selloff. Another report showed factory activity in the mid-Atlantic region improved in January as shipments rebounded, but still contracted for a fifth straight month. That indicates national manufacturing activity remained in the doldrums. REUTERS

RAPE COP SENTENCED

2 A former Oklahoma City police officer convicted of raping four women and sexually assaulting several others while he was on duty faced the possibility of life in prison at a sentencing hearing Thursday. In December, an Oklahoma City jury found Daniel Holtzclaw, 29, guilty on 18 of 36 charges of sexual assault, including rape. He faces up to 263 years in prison. Prosecutors said he preyed on women who had trouble with the law and forced them into sex, hoping their word would not hold up against his in court. REUTERS

REAL-TIME SPORTS

3 Facebook is tackling the sports arena with a platform called Facebook Sports Stadium, which the social media site said will provide real-time updates on games, popular posts from fans, statistics and commentary from experts. The service appears to be an effort to encroach on Twitter's territory. REUTERS



CALL FOR BETTER LOCAL HIRING PRACTICES

7 Former Gov. Ed Rendell spoke at the Hyundai Rotem train manufacturing plant in South Philadelphia to call on SEPTA to establish better local hiring practices as they expand and renovate their trains and other infrastructure.

MAIN PHOTOS BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

CONTROLLER QUESTIONS

4 The city's fiscal watchdog has set it sights on what some might consider an undeserving target — the vocational training program for inmates at city jails. City Controller Alan Butkovitz released an audit this week of PHILACOR, the program behind furniture-making, textiles, dry-cleaning and culinary training programs at the Philadelphia Prison Systems, which found the program cost $365,000 more than it made over three years. SAM NEWHOUSE

MOM HITS POLICE CAR

5 Two children were reportedly hospitalized Wednesday night after their mother crashed into an unmarked police cruiser. The 28-year-old woman reportedly did not have the right of way when she crashed into a police captain on his way to a homicide investigation around 6 p.m. near the intersection of Georges Hill Drive and Belmont Avenue in Fairmont, NBC Philly reported. "Police also said her 9-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son were inside and the crash caused the girl to go headfirst into the windshield," NBC Philly reported. MATT LEE

FIGHTER JET CRASHES

6 An F-16 fighter jet crashed in rough terrain in remote central Arizona on Thursday, Air Force officials said. The $25 million jet is assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix, officials said. The crash occurred about 100 miles northwest of the base. REUTERS

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Council bill to recognize Muslim holidays

City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. wants to put a stop to Muslim families feeling "marginalized" in Philadelphia.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Employing the term "marginalized" to describe how he and his family have felt over the years when faced with aversion to their Muslim faith, City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. introduced a bill Thursday that aims to cultivate a culture of inclusivity.

Jones offered up a resolution calling on the city and the school district to recognize Eid al-Fitr, also known as the end of the holy month of Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, in the same manner as other legally recognized holidays in Philadelphia.

Council suspended its normal rules of order and passed the resolution unanimously.

"We understand there's a separation of church and state, but the simple reality is that we already recognize religious holidays both in the school district and in the city of Philadelphia," said City Council President Darrell Clarke.

"We just wanted to send a signal that there is support — we think that it's time we reflect this population in the city of Philadelphia in a meaningful way, and this is the start of that process."

According to Jones, there are 200,000 Muslims in and around the city, and Muslim children from kindergarten through grade 12 represent approximately 20 percent of the student body.

"None of our children, of any race, creed, color or religion, should ever feel marginalized again, and I will do everything legal in my power as a council person to make sure they never, ever feel that feeling," Jones said.

Clarke went on to say Thursday's passage of the resolution was only the start of the conversation, and that the city would have to work out the kinks regarding whether or not these days would be paid holidays or not for city employees. Eid al-Fitr falls on July 7 and Eid al-Adha falls on Sept. 12.

"None of our children, of any race, creed, color or religion, should ever feel marginalized again."
Jones

Council is in session. JENNY DEHUFF

'Downton Abbey' gets nod from Council on its first day back

It's nothing but hitting the bricks hard for Philadelphia City Council.

And that means strong leadership, meaningful reform, and — you guessed it — honoring a fictional television series made in another country.

Jokes and jests aside, City Council opened Day 1 of its winter session with, among other things, a resolution honoring and recognizing WHYY and the series "Downton Abbey" for its sixth and final season on PBS.

"'Downton Abbey' is one of the most-watched series ever on WHYY since its debut on PBS in 2011," said City Councilwoman Cindy Bass.

"Downton Abbey has been enjoyed by all ages and demographics. It's now in its sixth and final season, with 59 Emmy nominations — more than any other non-U.S. show in Emmy history."

Councilman Mark Squilla introduced the resolution, calling it one of the most honored series on all of television.

"We commend all involved in this momentous occasion, extend sincere respect and admiration from this legislative body," he said.

A heckler in the crowd yelled, "Is 'Downton Abbey' about Philadelphia?" eliciting a few chuckles.

JENNY DEHUFF

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BOLARIS: 'BEAST IN THE EAST' TIMELINE

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

It's crunch time, as the clock is ticking and a full-fledged nor'easter will begin slowly twisting up and along the East Coast on Friday night. The big question is just how far north the heavy snow line will extend into the Northeast and will it make it into Southern New England. I have looked at every single computer model over and over again, certain trends, better performers, and some history and this is how this eventual "Beast in the East" will impact the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

First I will play the elimination game, and right now I believe Boston will dodge the heavy snow bullet, with the southern-facing shores of the Capes standing the best chance of receiving significant snow. Boston might only muster up an inch or two, perhaps 3 to 4 inches the way I see it now.

New York City and across Long Island will be on the Northern periphery of the heavy snow bands, missing a paralyzing blizzard, but still I would put it in the major category due to the very strong winds, snow amounts exceeding 6 inches for most, but not for everyone, as there will be a sharp cutoff from heavy snow to only some light snow with little accumulation just to the north of NYC.

The bulls-eye for this storm is setting up across D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia where snow amounts in some places will exceed 18 inches.

Here's the setup:

A strong arctic high is anchored over northern New England and will act as a cold funnel feed, keeping I-95 corridor sector all snow. Right now I'm not looking at any changeover to rain in D.C., Philly or NYC, although during the height of the storm there could be some sleet mixing in during Saturday afternoon and early evening.

The storm system, loaded with moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. will be moving out of the Tennessee Valley during the day on Friday, and then redevelop off the North Carolina coast late Friday night. Rapid intensification will take place Saturday morning just off the Virginia coast with a plume of intense snow banding taking place to the north and west of the rapidly deepening storm. This will place D.C. and Philadelphia in the excessive-snow banding. Rates of 1-2 inches per hour along with wind gusts to 35-40-plus mph will make for periods of whiteout conditions.

The storm will stall for a time just off the coast, and then I see a more easterly shift, then a northeasterly move. This will still need to be watched closely.

Major tidal flooding will impact many coastal areas, with southern New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia to be hit the hardest. Northern New Jersey should see mainly moderate coastal flooding. Two to three high-tide cycles will produce most of the flooding, with the back bays getting hammered as the strong easterly winds will not allow the bays to drain. To boot, we have a full moon to contend with, adding to a higher tide than normal.

Localized major tidal flooding will also be experienced across all of Long Island, New York harbor and on into the Capes of Southern New England. Wind gusts along the Jersey and Delaware shores could exceed 55 mph.

The brunt of the storm will take place for Philadelphia and NYC mainly during Saturday afternoon and night with D.C. seeing the teeth by early Saturday morning.

Prepare yourself. GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia

- Friday Night: 9 p.m. - midnight Snow arrives
- Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m.: Periods of intense snow banding.
- Rates of 1-2 inches per hour possible. White-out at times. Wind gusts 35+ mph, sleet could mix in.
- Saturday Night: Intense snow bands pulling away. Very windy. Blowing snow. Possible power outages. Potential accumulation 10-16 inches. less north and west Major tidal flooding
- Sunday: Clearing windy and cold.

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City prepares for snow emergency

The city's director of emergency management is "leaning toward" declaring a snow emergency for Friday.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
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PennDOT workers prepare salt piles ahead of Friday's expected blizzard, in South Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Samantha Phillips, the city's director of emergency management, said Thursday that the city was "leaning toward" a snow emergency operation plan that would go into effect Friday.

This means that Philadelphians will have to move their cars off snow emergency routes throughout town.

Earlier Thursday, Gov. Tom Wolf declared a snow emergency for the state, which is separate from the city's contemplated snow emergency. The city's snow emergency only pertains to parking along snow emergency routes.

"We will likely activate the city's emergency operation center tomorrow evening and then expand to a full activation on Saturday morning," Phillips said during a press conference Thursday evening from City Hall.

"The snowfall overnight should be relatively manageable, and then the height of the storm will really kick in Saturday morning."

"We are in a blizzard watch that begins Friday evening and extends through Sunday morning. We're forecasted for the most probable snowfall accumulation of 12 to 18 inches. … There are potentials for power outages and down trees. We have not made any official decisions, but we will make official decisions after we get the most current information from the National Weather Service," said Phillips.

She said about 400 plows will be deployed among 600 personnel.

Mayor Jim Kenney, during his first snowstorm press conference as mayor, asked residents to be safe and look out for each other.

"Try and help your neighbors when this storm is over. Clear the steps. Check on our seniors. Let's work together as neighbors and as citizens to make sure we're safe and get out of this and back to normal as soon as possible," he said.

Share your pictures

Winter storm Jonas is heading our way and we want your snow pics!

Send Metro your snowstorm photos, then see them online or in our paper.

Tweet them to @MetroPhilly using the hashtag #Jonas or post them to our Metro Philly Facebook page.

BRIEF

Hahnemann nurses vote to unionize

Nurses at Hahnemann University Hospital voted 516 to 117 Wednesday night to form a union.

Eighty-two percent of the nurses at Hahnemann University Hospital voted to join PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals. The National Labor Relations Board convened the election Tuesday and Wednesday, and votes were tallied into Wednesday night.

The new local union will represent more than 850 nurses.

"We wanted to get back to the foundations of nursing," said Mike Winn, an RN in the hospital's emergency department.

"It should be about patients, not profits or shareholders. We were tired of having management's decisions limit our ability to give the best care," said Winn.

Some of the major complaints that spurred the vote to unionize were of poor working conditions, subpar equipment, confusing scheduling and inadequate staffing.

Now the nurses plan to prepare to bargain for a fair contract.

"We know that this election is just a first step," said Winn.

"But we've already come very far and we're ready for the next step."

Hahnemann responded to the vote with the following statement:

"Hahnemann respects the decision of our nurses to be represented by PASNAP. We look forward to working with PASNAP to reach a mutually beneficial collective bargaining agreement," said Michael P. Halter, CEO of Hahnemann University Hospital.

"Our focus will continue to be, as it always has been, to provide those who come to us for care with excellent, high-quality treatment thanks to the help of our skilled nursing staff." JENNY DEHUFF

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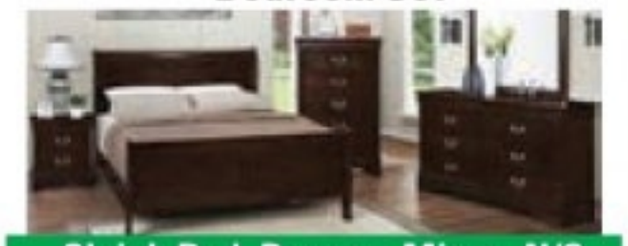

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#OSCARSSOWHITE FLAP IS A FIRST-WORLD PROBLEM

THE ERNEST OPINION

ERNEST OWENS
@MrErnestOwens

By now, you probably know about the ongoing backlash surrounding the all-white acting nominations at this year's Academy Awards for a second year in a row.

#OscarsSoWhite, the infamous hashtag being used to spotlight the controversy, has gone viral again — further sparking conversations about diversity issues in Hollywood.

But why did it take another year of award snubs to bring us back to this topic in the first place?

Looking closely, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences is predominately white, male, and older – recent stats cite voters as 94 percent white, 76 percent male, with an average age of 63. So regardless of nomination outcome, the problem is larger than that.

Which is why I'm not personally a fan of what appears to be a very narrow-minded push to boycott the Oscars.

For one, industry award shows are political and petty. Often times, big studio heads and brands dominate campaigns to get certain actors and films consideration. Does the name Harvey Weinstein ring a bell? The well-known film producer and co-chairman of The Weinstein Company is notorious for pushing such films as "Shakespeare in Love," "The Artist" and "The King's Speech" into Oscar-winning glory.

Which suggests that perhaps the problem is beyond just getting nominated, but the nature of the business itself. There is a lack of black filmmakers, producers, directors that are even a part of the industry to play such politics. And for decades, black entertainers have had to rely on white corporate figureheads to invite them to the table.

For any black entertainer to simply be disgruntled with the Oscars now because of not being one of the few, the proud or the only to be nominated — is a first-world issue. To boycott the vested interests that continue to hold the strings isn't smart, either.

One solution that could work would be for the conversation and suggested activism to shift away from award shows in general. They aren't going away anytime soon, and just because you have a good year for diversity wins doesn't mean the deep-seated industry issues are resolved.

I would encourage black celebrities such as Will Smith, Spike Lee and host Chris Rock to use their global influence to push for industry changes year-round and not just during awards season. Because it seems as though there is a level of self-centeredness when using award show rejection as a catalyst for complaining about problems in the business elsewhere.

Jada Pinkett Smith GETTY IMAGES

I argue that Smith's wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, wouldn't have made her recent viral video urging others to boycott the Oscars if her husband would have been nominated for his role in "Concussion."

But again, these are first-world problems. Meanwhile in Flint, Michigan, there are predominately poor black communities drinking contaminated lead-infused water.

Hopefully these very passionate celebrities can channel their energies about missing one less industry award to actually saving lives.

But perhaps I'm just reaching for the stars, literally.

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Navigation $333/Month

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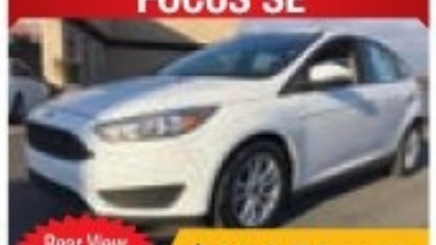

Rear View Cam $166/Month

2010 BUICK ENCLAVE

LOW MILES! $272/Month

2009 LEXUS RX 350 AWD

Navigation $318/Month

2012 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SE

Navigation $196/Month

2008 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA

Like New $60/Month!

2012 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD

Navigation $272/Month

2012 KIA FORTE EX

Moon Roof $151/Month

2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LIMITED

Navigation $181/Month

2013 FORD EXPLORER XLT

AWD $318/Month

2012 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING

Factory Warranty $166/Month

2008 MERCEDES S550 4MATIC

Navigation $379/Month

2002 BMW 530iA

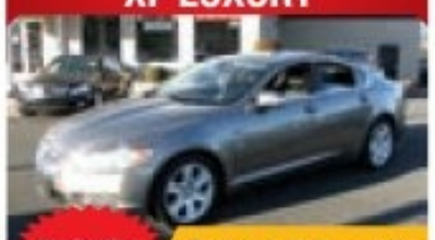
Like New! $136/Month

2008 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT

Towing Pkg $212/Month

2012 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT

Navigation $303/Month

2010 JAGUAR XF LUXURY

Navigation $363/Month

2011 SCION XB 4A

Factory Warranty $166/Month

2007 CHEVY TAHOE LT AWD

TV-DVD/ Navi $318/Month

2011 BUICK REGAL CXL

Like New! $181/Month

2012 TOYOTA COROLLA S

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Philly schools avoid doomsday closing with emergency fund

Emergency funding from the state will keep schools open, but it's not clear if it will last the school year.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Another doomsday scenario for Philly schools has been averted.

Just last month, the School District of Philadelphia's superintendent, Dr. William Hite, warned that he couldn't afford to pay staff past the last Thursday in January.

But the district will be able to keep paying its bills past the forecast "doomsday" date of Jan. 29, thanks to emergency funding released by Gov. Tom Wolf while the state budget stalemate — now in its sixth month — continues in the capitol.

"We received a little over $600 million after the governor signed the partial budget early this January," school district spokesman Fernando Gallard told Metro. "The notice we've given out that we did not know whether we'd be operating schools past Jan. 29 — that's been suspended."

Dr. Hite sent school district staff a memo on Jan. 12 stating that the district would continue issuing paychecks in coming months thanks to the emergency funding, but noted they received less than half as much funding as they got from the state in past years and may not be able to stay open through the end of the school year on June 30.

Philadelphia Schools Superintendent William Hite CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"We will continue normal operations by filling the gap with borrowed money and expected city real estate tax revenues," Dr. Hite wrote. "This, however, is not a financially sustainable situation, without knowing when the remaining state funds will be released, it is difficult to say for certain whether we can make all payments through June 30, 2016."

George Jackson, spokesman for the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, said the emergency funding only delayed the school funding crisis.

"It's not next week, no," Jackson said. "But there's still uncertainty that remains about how much past Jan. 29 the school district can go. By no means are we relaxing or celebrating anything."

At the very least, the school district expects to be able to stay open into May, Gallard said.

> *"This, however, is not a financially sustainable situation."*
>
> Hite

"We're still analyzing how far that will take us. We're still in urgent need for funds to have a fully funded fiscal year," Gallard said. "We support the governor's proposal in terms of the funding for public education. Our goal is to match the governor's proposal in terms of funding."

Additional reporting by Jenny DeHuff

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DA strikes back at Cosby's 'deal' claims

Montgomery County DA Kevin Steele previously said he would not try the case against Bill Cosby "in the court of public opinion." Apparently, he changed his mind.

Steele released a statement bashing Cosby's claims of a "non-prosecution agreement" this week after filing a response in court to a motion Cosby's legal team filed to dismiss sex assault charges against the disgraced entertainer.

Cosby is "seeking to distract from the allegations against him by attacking the district attorney's office," Steele said in the statement.

"The defendant contends that a former district attorney granted him immunity or a promise not to prosecute. … Only a judge may issue a grant of immunity, which was not done in 2005 or since," Steele continued.

Cosby is charged with aggravated indecent assault related to a 2004 incident at Cosby's mansion just outside Philadelphia.

Former Montgomery County DA Bruce Castor has said he promised Cosby's former lawyer, who is now dead, that he would not charge Cosby if he agreed to testify in a civil lawsuit about the alleged sex assault without invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Cosby's testimony then became the central basis for a criminal complaint filed by Steele's office charging him with sex assault. SAM NEWHOUSE

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SEX IN THE HOT TUB

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the new book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

Watching "The Bachelor" this week (because it's the greatest TV show ever!) I was struck by a lesson: Dating is not about practicality. I should have learned this in my dating days, and I had a hint of it when I asked one woman why she broke up with her previous boyfriend. She replied, "For my birthday he gave me a blender."

At the time I was puzzled, since I'd seen her kitchen and the blender seemed to be a quality item that matched the décor. But I have since learned when you are dating someone he or she would rather consider all the wild, adventurous, and romantic ideas you share right now, and leave practical matters — like devices for chopping, frappéing and stirring — until later. To the point: Given a choice between someone who wants to discuss their solid qualifications as a spouse, and someone who raises the possibility of sex in the hot tub, the hot tubber will win every time.

This is not good, because working relationships require more than sizzle — like agreements on who will walk the dog, wash the dishes, or get the Corolla lubed. (And if you think that last one is a euphemism, you're already doomed.) There is a name for people who think marriage can be built on passion alone: divorced.

And there is a name for voters who think feeling passionate about their presidential choice is enough: chumps. Sure, it's great to watch your hero — Democratic or Republican — rail about injustice, accountability and Washington's incompetence. It's nice to feel all that excitement and pride as your anointed one surges in the polls. But that is not sufficient to effect change or deliver on all those white-hot promises.

Don't get me wrong. Passion in politics is fine; but minus well-considered, honest policy it can be disappointing at best, and disastrous at worst. Just like sex in the hot tub can be fun, but you're still going to need someone to get the towels.

Big jump in loaded gun seizures at US airport security checkpoints

Handguns GETTY IMAGES

U.S. security officials intercepted a record 2,653 firearms — 83 percent of them loaded — from carry-on bags at airport security checkpoints in 2015, a 20 percent increase from the previous year, a federal agency said on Thursday.

The 2,212 firearms seized in 2014 was itself a record, according to the Transportation Security Administration. The firearms seized last year were intercepted at 236 airports, 12 more than in 2014, TSA said.

"Through increased training in detection methods, our officers are becoming more adept at intercepting these prohibited items," TSA Administrator Peter V. Neffenger said in a statement.

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport seized the most guns in 2015 with 153, followed by international airports in Atlanta with 144, Houston with 100, Denver with 90 and Phoenix with 73, it said.

TSA said it screened more than 708 million passengers last year, or about 1.9 million per day and 40.7 million more than in 2014.

Federal Air Marshals flew more than a billion miles and 98 percent of passengers waited in line less than 20 minutes at security checks, it said.

REUTERS

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3-D in a 2-D world: State of play of virtual reality

Valkyrie, a new action-packed space adventure developed by game company CCP, was designed to harness the latest in virtual reality technology. A VR headset is the best way to appreciate the truly immersive nature of the game. Two dimensional renderings do little justice to the 3D version — or the hardware used to play it.

That sums up the problem with virtual reality - it's hard to sell 3-D in a 2-D world.

"Today we use devices like smartphones and tablets. Tomorrow we want to change the dynamic around immersive, advanced, virtual reality," said JP Nauseef, the founder of Krush technologies, a company starting to develop virtual reality hardware.

Major advances in virtual reality are starting to take shape. Tech giants like Google, Facebook and Samsung are just some of the players heavily investing in VR. Cheaper, more sophisticated, headsets are coming to market every year.

Samsung Gear VR headset GETTY IMAGES

At the same time, futuristic hardware like Moveo, a concept simulator developed by Krush, are expanding the scope of possibilities for virtual reality.

But according to Halsey Minor, founder of CNET networks and several other tech enterprises, accelerating growth in VR must be content driven.

"I think the biggest opportunities in VR are around the biggest opportunities in television and that requires the ability to do live streaming VR, which today has been a very difficult thing because of the technology involved," said Minor, who is heading up Reality Lab, a start-up focused on bringing VR into the mainstream.

Minor recently unveiled the Quantum Leap VR system, a device that starts paving the way towards a future where people will be able to experience live sporting events and concerts in virtual reality.

"It's 16 HD cameras all running at the same time and out of those 50 gigabytes of information, a huge amount of information, we have to craft to perfect 360 degree spheres for each eye and then transport that over the Internet," Minor added.

He predicts that just like the Internet is supplanting newspapers, VR will have the same effect on television. REUTERS

BRIEF

Verizon adds 1.5 million new monthly users; revenue beats estimates

Verizon Communications Inc on Thursday reported higher-than-expected revenue for the fourth quarter as heavy promotions helped it counter aggressive offers and discounts from rivals and win new users.

Shares of the No. 1 U.S. wireless phone service provider, whose profit edged past analysts' estimates, rose 2.7 percent to $45.63 in morning trading.

Verizon added a net 1.5 million wireless retail postpaid, or monthly, subscriptions in the quarter, below 2 million a year earlier but above the analysts' average estimate of 1.42 million, according to market research firm FactSet StreetAccount.

Verizon adds news users GETTY IMAGES

The company, known for its high-quality network, withstood stiff competition from rivals in the saturated U.S. wireless market. Smaller rival Sprint Corp offered 50 percent off to encourage users to switch to its network, and T-Mobile US Inc launched a free video streaming plan.

For its part, Verizon rolled out holiday season offers such as a data giveaway on some plans, $100 discounts on certain phones and a $300 credit to trade in some models.

Customer defections, or churn, in Verizon's postpaid business fell to 0.96 percent from 1.14 percent a year earlier.

Average revenue per account, however, fell 6.6 percent to $148.30, below the analysts' forecast of $149.61, according to FactSet. Jefferies analyst Mike McCormack said Verizon must curb such declines in this measure this year.

Like its rivals, Verizon has switched from offering customers two-year contracts to monthly installment plans that have lower service fees and can weigh on revenue.

REUTERS

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George Clooney brings back his old '90s Caesar cut as a 1950s Hollywood star in "Hail, Caesar!" UNIVERSAL

THE FUN STARTS HERE

The best new dumb-fun films

If you're going to leave your warm apartment for the bleak outside world, it better be for something worthwhile. Good thing we're getting lots of big comic book movies and sequels. Oh, and there's also a Coen brothers film. MATT PRIGGE

"Hail, Caesar!" (Feb. 5)

If you're a fan of Karina Longworth's addictive podcast about Old Hollywood, "You Must Remember This," you're the target audience for the latest Coen brothers joint. Then again, so is anyone who loves when they go full-on funny. Another one of their movies about idiots, à la "Burn After Reading," it follows a scarily effective Tinseltown "fixer" (Josh Brolin) based on — and actually named — Eddie Mannix, who has to track down a star (George Clooney) who's gone AWOL from a shoot in the 1950s. There's also ScarJo doing Busby Berkeley-style numbers.

"DEADPOOL" (FEB. 12)

So Marvel movies are intentionally funny now, huh? Briefly seen in the dreaded first "Wolverine" movie, Ryan Reynolds' costumed badass has been repurposed as a quip-slinger prone to even broader jokes than the ones in "Ant-Man." The movie's also rated R, a first for the brand, suggesting it might be closer to the dark, sick humor of the comics.

"Deadpool" TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

"ZOOLANDER NO. 2" (FEB. 12)

Penelope Cruz joins Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Hey, the kids who started school when 2001's first dalliance with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson's mindless fashion gods came out are now starting to pay back their undergrad loans! That is all. Except now we're thinking about the David Bowie cameo in the original, and thus about David Bowie, and oh man, how great was David Bowie?

"GODS OF EGYPT" (FEB. 26)

Hollywood doesn't make enough bats—t crazy doozies, so cherish whatever the hell this is, which appears to be Gerard Butler screeching while that one guy from "Game of Thrones" turns into reptiles or something. If it doesn't open with a disembodied head vomiting up exposition à la "Zardoz," there is no god.

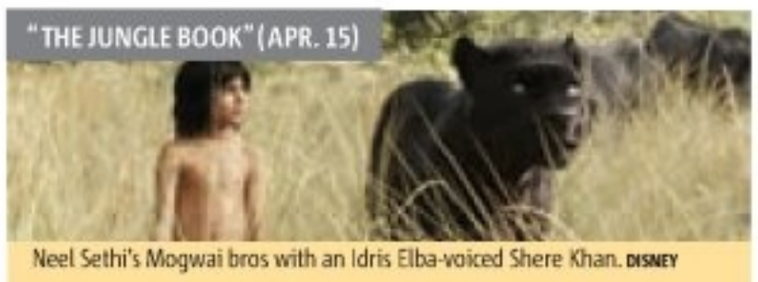
"Gods of Egypt" LIONSGATE

"BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE" (MAR. 25)

Ben Affleck broods as Batman. Of course. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The trailers are annoying, Ben Affleck is miscast, the DC Comics movies are supergloomy and Zack Snyder is a terrible director — but this tag-team effort also cost $200 million. And it's the first one in a Marvel Cinematic Universe-esque world-building attempt for the other major comics label. Seeing it is like voting: You have to do it, we guess.

"THE JUNGLE BOOK" (APR. 15)



Neel Sethi's Mogwai bros with an Idris Elba-voiced Shere Khan. DISNEY

Not to be confused with next year's "Jungle Book: Origins," Disney's reboot of one of its most beloved products mixes live action with star-voiced critters, filled by the likes of Bill Murray, Lupita Nyong'o and Christopher Walken. If you don't like it we can do this all over again next year.

"THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR" (APR. 22)

Emily Blunt joins Charlize Theron in the second "Huntsman." UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Kristen Stewart was too busy winning the French equivalent of the Oscar and kicking ass in small movies like "Clouds of Sils Maria" to return for the "Snow White" sequel. Actually, it's a prequel about the sister of Charlize Theron's witch, played by Jessica Chastain, who is fitted with the power to turn things into ice. Just like "Frozen"! Kind of exactly like "Frozen"!

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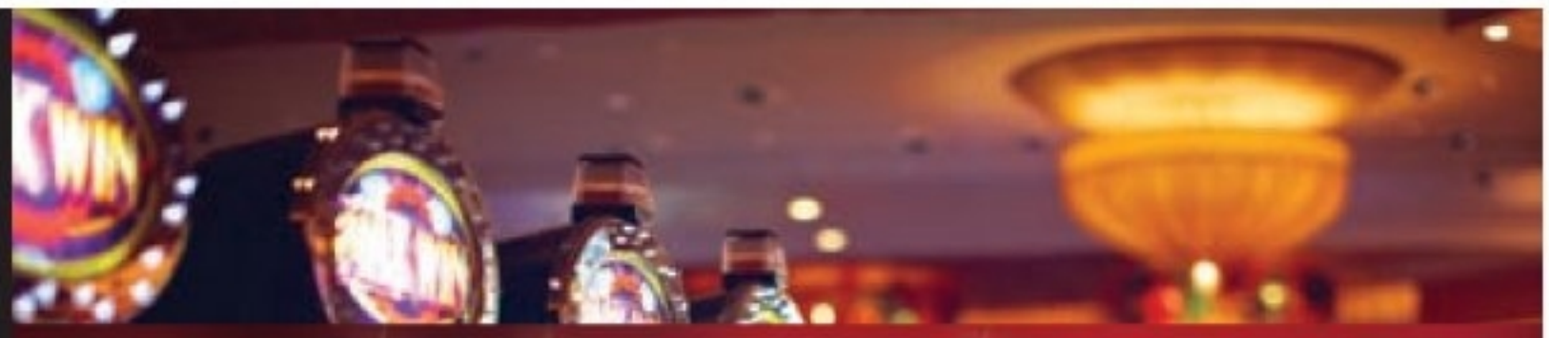

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10PM DJ Paul Desisto

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
3PM Showcase Sunday

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
9PM Latin Night

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
5PM Big Chill
9:30PM Split Decision
10PM DJ Paul Desisto

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10PM DJ Eric Vanderslice

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Is Zac Efron secretly good?

With "Dirty Grandpa" out this weekend, we look at the many (or few) sides of its chiseled star.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

The first "High School Musical" movie is now 10 years old. You can't say it's too early to tell if star Zac Efron is secretly a talented thespian. He has been in the game since the 1989 TV movie "Triple Play."

And yet it's still hard to figure out what to think of him. This much we do know: When he's making fun of his bro-ish stature, he's very good. When he popped up as a Pabst-crushing, devious frat lord in "Neighbors," it was a revelation. He quietly telegraphed a real panic: Maybe Efron's character — and Efron himself — can do nothing but take his shirt off.

He had good reason to worry: When he's tried out serious roles — in Richard Linklater's "Me and Orson Welles," and in Ramin Bahrani's "At Any Price" — he was bland and vacant. Lee Daniels used that well in his insane "The Paperboy," in which the pretty boy did little but bop about in his undies.

And yet this summer he surprised us again. Yes, everyone hated the DJ drama "We Are Your Friends," and it had one of the worst opening weekends of any wide release in history. But Efron actually found a touching soulfulness to his young, precocious and foolish aspiring music maker. It suggested he might evolve into a strong dramatic actor — or at least better than he was in the Nicholas Sparks outing "The Lucky One."

Whazzup! Zac Efron was actually super good in 2014's hit "Neighbors." UNIVERSAL

A definitive ranking of Zac Efron's best shirtless scenes

Zac Efron is more than just a pretty face. His body is desktop-background-worthy, too. Here, we roundup his absolute best shirtless scenes. Head to metro.us for the full list plus gratuitous videos.

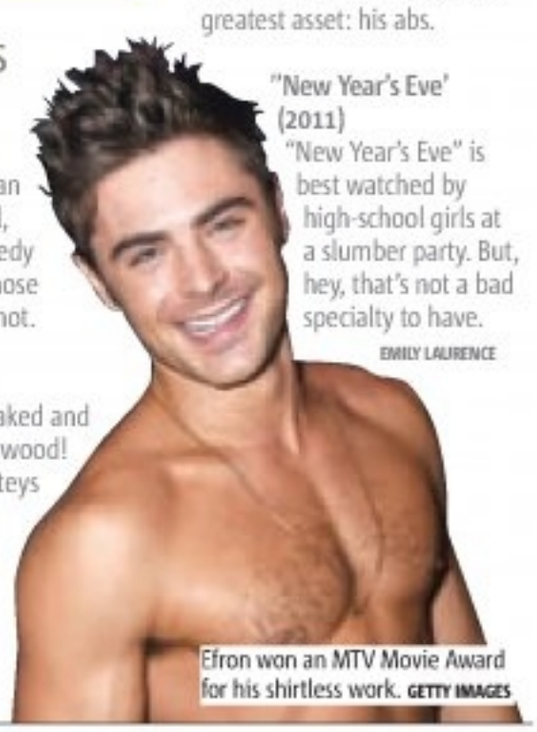
1. "Neighbors"
Efron is at his shirtless peak as the frat bro in "Neighbors," and the "Neighbors 2" trailer teases at more half-naked goodness. It's no wonder at the end of the movie his character finds his true calling: as an Abercrombie & Fitch employee.

2. "The Lucky One"
This Nicholas Sparks adaptation is almost too cheesy to watch. Efron plays a Marine who almost died in combat. He credits his survival to a photo of a pretty girl, deeming it his good luck charm. After he comes back from deployment, he decides to hunt her down. The movie has few redeeming qualities, but it does gift the world with Efron's hottest sex scene yet.

3. "That Awkward Moment"
Efron even looks sexy while planking a toilet. How many people can pull that off? Overall, this bro-mantic comedy is forgettable, but those shirtless scenes are not.

4. "The Paperboy"
This time, Efron is naked and wet — thanks, Hollywood! Normally tighty-whiteys on a grown man is unappealing, but Nicole Kidman doesn't mind, and neither do we.

EMILY LAURENCE



Efron won an MTV Movie Award for his shirtless work. GETTY IMAGES

A look at young Zac

"17 Again" (2009)
In his early days, Efron was happy to take shallow parts typecasting himself as the pretty boy heartthrob with funny one-liners. It's a card he played well, and "17 Again" is fun to watch.

"Charlie St. Cloud" (2009)
This Nicholas Sparks adaptation was an unfortunate turning point for Efron. But it at least let Efron flaunt his other greatest asset: his abs.

"New Year's Eve" (2011)
"New Year's Eve" is best watched by high-school girls at a slumber party. But, hey, that's not a bad specialty to have.

EMILY LAURENCE

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Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling star in "45 Years." SUNDANCE SELECTS

"45 Years"

Director: Andrew Haigh
Stars: Charlotte Rampling, Tom Courtenay
Rating: R

●●●●○

Just because they've been together for four-and-a-half decades doesn't mean marriage is any easier. Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay play Kate and Geoff, who are hit with news soon before an anniversary party: Someone has found the body of one of Geoff's ex-girlfriends. He's suddenly thinking about the love that could not be, while Kate realizes she may have been no more than his backup choice. As in "Weekend," director Andrew Haigh gives his actors room to find the nuances between lines. They reward him with deeply felt performances that don't always need dialogue to signify all that's bubbling underneath their very English reticence. MATT PRIGGE

Geza Rohrig plays a member of the Sonderkommando, the unit of concentration camp inmates who aided in the disposal of fellow Jews, in "Son of Saul." SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

"Son of Saul"

Director: Laszlo Nemes
Stars: Geza Rohrig, Levente Molnar
Rating: R

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The first thing you notice in "Son of Saul" is the technique. Then you notice the horror. It shouldn't be that way, not when the subject is the Holocaust and the setting is Auschwitz-Birkenau. "Saul" is Hungarian filmmaker Laszlo Nemes' first feature, and it's almost a fact that it's brilliantly made.

Whether it's brilliantly felt is another matter. Despite its obvious noble intentions, "Son of Saul" is narratively boilerplate, with a story cobbled together from other Holocaust tales we've seen time and time again. Our guide is Saul (Geza Rohrig), a haunted member of the Sonderkommando, the concentration camp units made up of inmates forced, under threat of death, to aid in the disposal of their brethren. His only distraction is a mission: He's found a dead boy who may be his son, and he seeks to give him a proper religious funeral.

It's not too cynical to think Nemes calculated what would make a great film, then did just that. It's too clean, which is to say it's often too contrived, cramming every incident that could happen in a story like this: the shower execution, the mass fire, the attempted escape, the "Children of Men"-style long take through chaos. It's like a connect-the-dots austere art film. And yet it still devastates. After all, how could it not? MP

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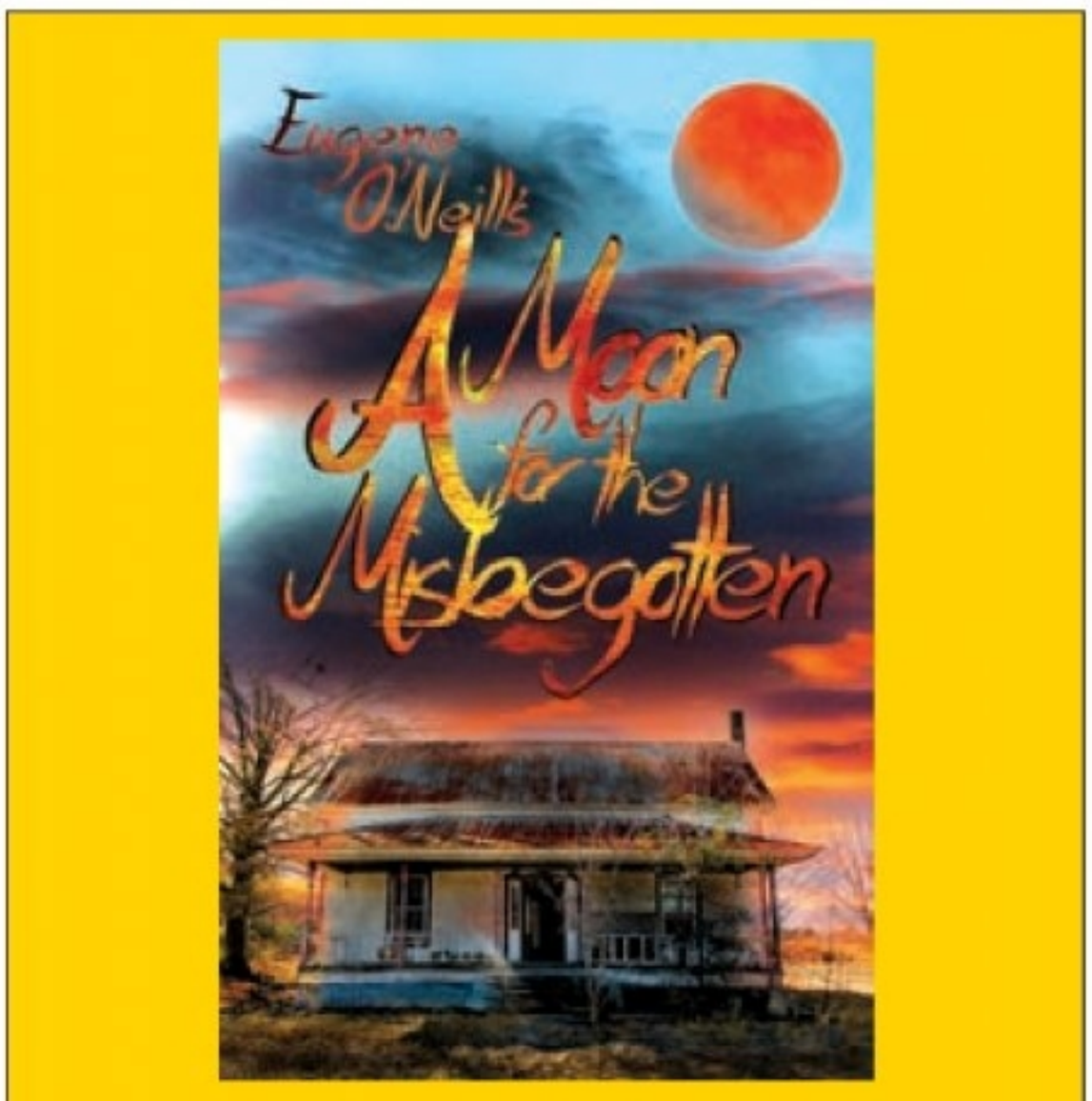
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Chloe Grace Moretz and hunky Alex Roe try to survive a YA apocalypse in "The 5th Wave." COLUMBIA PICTURES

"The 5th Wave"

Director: J Blakeson
Stars: Chloe Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson
Rating: PG-13

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"The 5th Wave" opens with its willowy hero (Chloe Grace Moretz) accidentally killing an unarmed man. Will this be the dark YA movie? Or will it be the "dark" YA movie — the one that starts like a teen take on "The Road" (but with aliens!) yet quickly retreats into the safety of chaste romances, shirtless supernatural bros and, most charitably of all, slumming master thespians earning their summer homes?

The answer comes quickly, right when Moretz's breathy yammering fills the token narration track, catching us up to speed with the setup and her feels. Her Cassie is a survivor of a knockoff "Independence Day" attack. Armed with a Wayne LaPierre-approved assault weapon, Cassie watched as her parents and bestie died — but, hey, who's that hunky, resourceful, slightly older guy (Alex Roe) who chops wood and bathes in lakes? Meanwhile a former classmate/crush (Nick Robinson) finds himself recruited into a kid army led by Liev Schreiber and Maria Bello (looking very '80s Bond villainess). Their broadly telegraphed ulterior motives are apparently supposed to be a third act twist.

The tone, as to be expected, is dreary and humorless and wannabe-tough. And yet "The 5th Wave" is, after its genocidal first act, nearly all soft. Moretz, for once, is a problem: freaky-eyed, ever-panting and in a permanent state of near tears. The film itself is fragile in another way. As it soldiers on to its big nonreveal and a distractingly rushed climax, it becomes clear this was a troubled production that couldn't even coherently set up its requisite love triangle. No amount of "hard PG-13" atrocities and leftfield homages to "They Live" — plus a truly non-sequitur shoutout to Tim Burton's "Big Fish" — can save a film that, in trying to be more than a YA movie, becomes one of the worst. MATT PRIGGE

Pretty boys Garrett Hedlund and Oscar Isaac face off in "Mojave." A24

"Mojave"

Director: William Monahan
Stars: Garrett Hedlund, Oscar Isaac
Rating: R

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As a straight-ahead thriller you follow for its plot, "Mojave" is a wash. As a depository for cutting insults and a general air of sour sarcasm, it's good fun. "Mojave" is the second film, after "London Boulevard," directed by William Monahan, who won an Oscar for writing "The Departed," and it's as precise with its language and its tone as it's sloppy about telling a story.

It almost plays like one of those "[whatever] from hell" thrillers that plagued the '90s, too. Suffering from a manly existential crisis, Garrett Hedlund's Thomas — a brooding Hollywood player of some sort — drives out to the desert with an arsenal of Modelo, ready to taunt some coyotes into tearing him apart. Instead he finds Oscar Isaac's Jack, a mysterious drifter with gnarly hair, a gold tooth and a tendency to abuse the term "brother" more than the he-man troops in "13 Hours." One thing leads to another and soon Thomas has accidentally shot a cop. He flees, but Jack follows him back to L.A., where he proceeds to mess with him.

The drawn-out pissing contest that ensues makes more sense when you read it as a filmmaker wrestling with his own demons. Who is he more like? The anguished pretty boy Thomas, who's read too much Beatnik? Or the sociopathic Jack, who just likes to watch the world burn, for kicks? Though it bandies about deep terms like "motiveless malignity" and "infinite complexity," "Mojave" may have more in common with Jack, filled as it is with quipping assholes and a love of mocking pretension, even as it regularly delivers it on a platter. It's a movie at war with itself, and often entertainingly so, not the least thanks to a turn from current Internet boyfriend Oscar Isaac that's as game as it is delightful. MP

Charlotte Rampling isn't that scary

Charlotte Rampling plays a woman who quietly falls apart when she learns her longtime husband (Tom Courtenay) still has powerful feelings for an old, deceased lover in "45 Years." SUNDANCE SELECTS

The legendary actress digs into dark feelings in her new marriage drama "45 Years."

MATT PRIGGE
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When meeting Charlotte Rampling, we don't get "the look" — that sharp-eyed, freezing gaze that is as iconic as those wielded by Garbo or Dietrich. We're slightly surprised to find the noted screen ice queen friendly, gabby and prone to full-bodied laughter, even when speaking about a brutally honest and very human film about a possibly crumbling relationship. In "45 Years," she and Tom Courtenay play a couple who discover a shocking secret soon before their 45th anniversary. We wonder how she'll react to the news that he's still pining for a girlfriend who died 50 years prior, in a performance that has netted the acclaimed actress, now 69, several accolades and counting.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but this is one of the most vulnerable roles you've played.
The vulnerability has always been there, but people have just used me on other registers. This has always been there, even if I come across as a bit scary sometimes. [Laughs] Underneath there's a good quivering mass that can be used.

Writer-director Andrew Haigh is in his 40s writing about characters in their 60s and 70s. What is it like working with someone making a film about characters older than he is?
I find with creative people, they're not wrong. Somehow, they know. They know things they have no right to know because they haven't actually lived. But the creative gift is there.

With this you would do multiple takes to get deeper and deeper into the scenes. Do you like when directors do lots of takes?
You have directors like Kubrick, who did 75 takes once. That's not all the time he does that. That, I suppose, comes from insecurity, of wanting to imagine so many different possibilities. Lots of directors do many, many takes and just exhaust the actors. [She mock-slouches in her chair, as though drained of life.] They think that's good.

Woody Allen is known for not doing a ton of takes, sometimes leaving his actors wondering if they're doing a good job. What were your experiences like with him on 1980's "Stardust Memories"?
I think mine was particular. He was in a particular stage in his life, and he was really quite happy, so we had a really good relationship. He was in between relationships, so he was in a really good mood. Obviously, that's changed. But that was a really good time for him.

Back to "45 Years." It flies in the face of the idea that relationships get easier with age, or that older people don't suffer the same neuroses that plague younger people.
Look at how Tom reacts: like a little boy again — a teenager hankering over his little girlfriend. It's exactly the same thing. Feelings are the most powerful things. Feelings can kill us. And it can be over something very, very small. They remind us of other things that hugely upset us in our lives. Maybe someone else did that to [Kate]— she was abandoned, maybe. Those feelings ping again. Feelings, they certainly don't age. They never — thank God — go away. Whatever happens till we die, we're always going to be overpowered with feelings — let's hope. It means we're alive.

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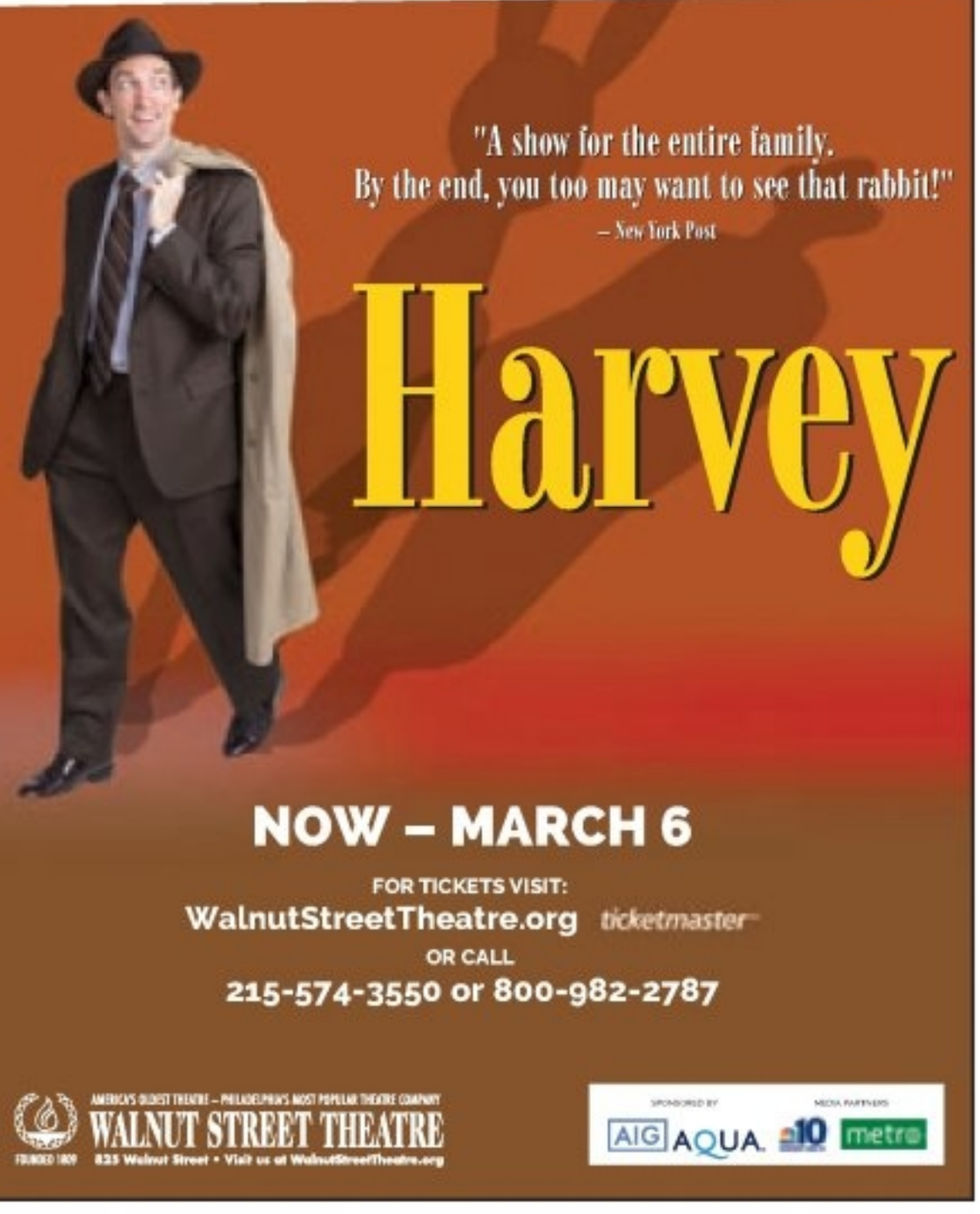

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Theresa Caputo: 'I'm the first one to say what I do is crazy'

The "Long Island Medium" star is preparing to call on the spirit world for a series of live shows.

RACHEL RACZKA
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Theresa Caputo, star of "Long Island Medium," says she can't predict what will happen on her live tour — but she knows her hair will be good.

"I always tell everyone what you can expect is that I'll have my hair and my nails done, and I'll be in a beautiful dress and fabulous shoes," she says. "That's all I've got so far."

The 49-year-old self-proclaimed spirit medium will demo her abilities on an upcoming multi-city tour, while her TLC reality show kicked off its eighth season earlier this month. At each live show, which she calls "the experience," Caputo will communicate with various audience members' loved ones, relaying messages from the spirit world.

Caputo's team tells us three times not to ask her for personal readings during our interview — a thought that had maybe crossed our minds a dozen times or so since committing to said interview — and we sadly oblige. Caputo alludes that her skill set is more of an organic one that comes to her without notice or agenda, so it's likely the request for an on-demand, over-the-phone reading would be sort of rude. In fact, she says the spirits are the ones who guide her live show, pointing her to audience members to call on, explaining why each performance's expectations are a bit vague at the moment.

"In a venue, I'll start to sense and feel things," says Caputo. "Whether you're in the first row, last row or all the way up in the balcony, spirits will guide me through that theater and they will have me stop and speak to someone."

She keeps reiterating her own shock — saying things like, "It would have been impossible for me to know those things!" — in response to specific details revealed through her live communications, potentially because Internet skeptics who accuse her of tactics such as eavesdropping on guests and interviewing attendees before shows. But Caputo's fully aware of the online haterade, and opts to not use the terms "believe" or "skeptic."

"I try to use the word 'understand,'" she explains.

"I'm the first one to say what I do is crazy," Caputo continues. "How can someone communicate with people that have died? But then it's the same thing where it's like, how would I know these things if the spirit didn't talk about [them]? It's the same exact thing. You know?"

But really, about those skeptics: "I respect how people feel; it's someone's opinion," Caputo concludes. "But you can't change the fact that after someone comes — whether they come for a private reading or the experience — they feel different, and they're able to live their lives in a positive way. And that's what it's about." *"Long Island Medium" airs on TLC, Sundays at 9 p.m..*

Caputo is serious about her hair. GETTY IMAGES

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Macklemore and Ryan Lewis make an 'Unruly Mess'

The hip-hop duo's second album is a departure from "The Heist."

A.D. AMOROSI
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With their Grammy-winning 2012 debut album, "The Heist," the Seattle hip-hop duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis spun gold (and platinum sales) from their contagious mix of boldly honest lyricism and inventively soulful music. Macklemore's witty, open tales dedicated to gay marriage, addiction and the struggles of youth and Lewis' colorful, dreamy production (to say nothing of his melodies) made the pair the politically correct rap choice of listeners and critics alike. That's why they jumped onto YouTube the other day to say their much-anticipated second album, "This Unruly Mess I Made," would be very different from their first.

"I was too comfortable, and being comfortable is what kills artists," says Macklemore in the video. "There is creativity for validation, and there's creativity for survival; making music not because we had to, but because we got to."

Promoting the new album, out next month, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis play two shows in Philly this weekend. Lewis called from a studio in Miami to discuss his pal (real name Ben Haggerty) and their process.

Macklemore and Ryan Lewis

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The hip-hop duo's second album is much different from their Grammy-winning debut, "The Heist." AMANDA SMITH

"This Unruly Mess I Made" — was it radically different than when you guys recorded "The Heist"?

This set of songs took a lot longer to record than the first time we made an album. Then again, we're processing a different chapter of our life. We actually made most of this album away from the studio and in a series of cabins. An atmosphere like that — someplace away from all distractions, all other music — gives you time and space to be more reflective and grow.

Did you go to the cabins with a handful of songs and sounds, or did you start from scratch?

A bunch of what you hear is a series of songs that I started working on while on the bus toward the end of our last tour. In September 2014, I did 30 days straight in the studio, recording musicians. That was the foundational content for our next step — hitting the cabins in January 2015.

How has your relationship with Macklemore changed?

I've known Ben for over a decade. When you go through the success that we did with "The Heist," that whole roller coaster, it's valuable to have a relationship that started long before that. Success is a lot to process on the life tip. When you come back to the everyday, you can unpack the old things together, good and bad. Parts of that process were hard, and parts of that were fun.

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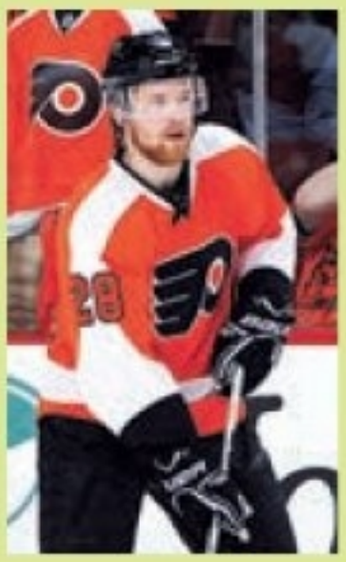
Philadelphia All-Sport Power Rankings | by Evan Macy

No. 1

Claude Giroux

If this list had been compiled several seasons ago there would have been tight competition at the top. For now, the best athlete in the city is Giroux, the Flyers' lone All-Star, who leads the team in points and has been their physical and emotional leader for nearly a decade.



No. 2

Fletcher Cox

It's hard to argue that Cox is not the best asset the Eagles currently boast, and as one of the Birds' three Pro Bowl selection, he is finally getting the national praise he deserves. The feisty edge-rusher posted career bests in sacks (9.5) and tackles (71), while making an impact in nearly every play.

No. 3

Malcolm Jenkins

Malcolm Jenkins doesn't fly off the page as the third-best athlete in Philadelphia, but look at the numbers. The safety was a defensive leader for the lowly 7-9 Eagles, compiling 109 tackles. He also had two big interceptions including a 99-yard pick-six against the Patriots.

No. 4

Jakub Voracek

The Czech had a breakout season in 2014-15 and earned a giant contract after posting 81 points (59 assists) last season. He's had a slow start to 2015-16 but still distributes the puck as good as anyone in the NHL, leading the Flyers in assists again as the team plays much better hockey.

No. 5

Jordan Matthews

Matthews fell just shy of a 1,000-yard season with 997, but through two years in the NFL he's been one of the best young Eagles wide receivers in team history. A big body out of the slot, he will surely be one of Doug Pederson's favorite weapons on offense.

No. 6

Wayne Simmonds

The third member of the Flyers' Big 3, Simmonds is always a game-breaker offensively, using his big body to create space in the offensive zone and working as a master in front of the net. If a defense loses sight of Simmonds, it usually results in a Philly goal.

No. 7

Zach Ertz

A healthy Ertz can make a case for being one of the best tight ends in football. In 2015, after starting the season injured and playing in a lackluster Eagles' offense, the big, 6-foot-6 athlete posted 853 yards on 75 receptions. He's shown he can be a game-changer after back-to-back solid seasons.

No. 8

Brayden Schenn

Now in his seventh season of pro hockey, Flyers fans forget that the former fifth overall pick is still just 24 years old. Schenn has become the best of Philly's secondary scoring options, and is on the cusp of finally breaking out. He'll be able to prove his worth as the NHL standings continue to tighten.

No. 9

Jahlil Okafor

The Sixers No. 3 pick, Okafor has become Philly's No. 1 scoring option, and has solidified himself as the team's best player. He is a viable candidate for NBA Rookie of the Year. Over the past handful of games he has averaged more than 20 points per game and led the 76ers to a few rare wins.

No. 10

Jordan Hicks

Hicks, had he not gotten hurt midway through the 2015 season, would likely have been a top 3 Philly athlete. In just half a season he tallied 50 tackles, two interceptions (including a pick-six), a forced fumble and fumble recovery and sack. Not bad for a third-round pick.

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No. 11

Shayne Gostisbehere

Ghost burst onto the scene this season as one of the most threatening men from the point on any power play unit in the NHL. He has three-overtime game-winners.

No. 12

Connor Barwin

Barwin had a quiet season, by his standards, in 2015 but still had seven sacks and 54 tackles. In Jim Schwartz' offense he said he would be comfortable moving to defensive end.

No. 13

Maikel Franco

The first Phillie on our list, Franco showed the makings of a middle-of-the-order bat for Philly last season before getting hurt and will try to show he's up to the hype in 2016.

No. 14

Nerlens Noel

Noel is a shot-blocking, rebounding machine — leading the 76ers in both categories. If he can get used to playing power forward (or is not traded) he has All-Star potential.

For the complete 133-player rankings, visit: **metro.us**

No. 15

Darren Sproles

Sproles may be the most exciting Eagle of the last two seasons, proving to be one of the best punt-returners in the NFL (he is a Pro Bowler).

No. 16

Aaron Nola

Nola broke onto the Big League level in just his second as a pro last season, going 6-2 with a 3.59 ERA. Ultimately has top-of-the rotation potential.

No. 17

Sam Bradford

The second half of the season showed Bradford break out and post stellar numbers, prompting Eagles fans to ask — which is the real Sam Bradford?

No. 18

Ryan Mathews

Mathews was banged up in 2015, but when his number was called he found ways to become the Eagles' featured back ahead of DeMarco Murray.

Ryan Mathews, Sam Bradford and Lane Johnson were three of the Eagles' most important players in 2015. GETTY IMAGES

The best of the rest

- 19—Jason Peters, Eagles T
- 20—Lane Johnson, Eagles T
- 21— Sean Couturier, Flyers C
- 22—Michal Neuvirth, Flyers G
- 23—Steve Mason, Flyers G
- 24—Bennie Logan, Eagles NT
- 25—Mychal Kendricks, Eagles ILB
- 26—Matt Read, Flyers RW
- 27—DeMarco Murray, Eagles RB
- 28—Brent Celek, Eagles TE
- 29—Jason Kelce, Eagles C
- 30—Donnie Jones, Eagles P
- 31—Matt Harrison, Phillies SP
- 32—Jerami Grant, Sixers SF
- 33—Joel Embiid, 76ers C
- 34—Scott Laughton, Flyers C
- 35—Vincent Velasquez, Phillies RP
- 36—Brandon Graham, Eagles OLB
- 37—Cedric Thornton, Eagles DE
- 38—Vinny Curry, Eagles DE
- 39—Odubel Herrera, Phillies OF
- 40—Michael Raffl, Flyers LW

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Big 5 basketball reaches milestone

Temple, La Salle, UPenn and St. Joes celebrated the Big 5 Wednesday.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

The Palestra is one of the most historic and visually stunning places to take in a basketball game in the entire sport. GETTY IMAGES

A familiar buzz filled the Palestra on Wednesday night for a Big 5 doubleheader, starting with Temple (10-7) versus La Salle (5-11) and following with St. Joe's (15-3) versus Penn (6-9). The night was less about the games and more about the night, which celebrated the Big 5's 60th anniversary.

It was the first Big 5 doubleheader since December of 2004 and it lived up to the billing. In a near sellout crowd, both Temple (62-49) and St. Joe's (75-60) cruised to relatively smooth victories. In between timeouts in the second half of the first game, former coaches and players were honored by the crowd, including huge ovations for former Owl Mark Macon and Explorer Lionel Simmons.

"When you can get four of the five teams here, you get a little bit of everything," Temple assistant coach and former guard Aaron McKie said. "You get St. Joe's, you get Temple, you get La Salle, you get Penn, you get the fans and the fans pretty much know each other. It's a melting pot of basketball minds and brains, and it's a lot of people that are just from this area and rooting for their teams."

McKie finished his three-year career at Temple in 1994, tied for sixth on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,650 points. He was honored Wednesday night during the St. Joe's-Penn game as one of the Big 5's top players of the '90s. He's just one example of the type of player that the Big 5 is all about, that holds tradition, Philadelphia toughness and heart alive in his everyday life.

But Wednesday night's festivities shouldn't be something so rare. St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli has preached time and time again that the scheduling for Big 5 games should be fixed. Doubleheaders like Wednesday night should be a regular occurrence, not just a treat you get once every decade.

"I said it at Temple, we played Temple and La Salle played Villanova at the exact same time." Martelli said. "So if I'm a Philadelphia basketball fan, I look at it and go, 'Well you guys don't give a damn about it anymore.' I'm not knocking anybody, I don't want emails from people saying, 'There you go again.' I'm not. I'm just suggesting that it should look special when you look at a schedule. Tonight looked special."

And that's what the Big 5 is, special. When you walk down the hallways of the Cathedral of Basketball, you feel it. When you see the rollouts come down the participating team's student sections at opposing hoops, you feel it. When you see the streamers hit the hardwood after a thrilling win, you feel it.

The traditions are still there, tucked inside of the 8,722-seat arena. It's time for the team's involved to set things right.

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B006 - Greene, Joyce • C036 - LANDAU, Elias • C050 - Roscoe, Frank • D006 - Dolchon, Mike
D035 - Murray, Aisha • D046 - Karamichalakos, Amani • D061 - Gartland, Barbara • D100 - LANDAU, Elias
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3100 - Asberry, Roderick • 3123 - Zamichieli, John • 3136 - Babb, Karen • 3177 - Brockway, Melanie
C1025 - Blue Star Installations LLC • C1027 - Smith, Al • D1033 - Chendorain Jr, Barry J
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NEW COACHES WILL HELP MURRAY, HYDE AND ELI

FANTASY SPORTS

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DeMarco Murray should feel much more comfortable in the running game under Doug Pederson. GETTY IMAGES

NFL coaches have a far bigger impact on the box score than their counterparts in basketball, baseball or hockey.

Figuring out how players' projections will be affected by coaching changes is a massive part of our off-season job. Some initial winners:

Chipping on Hyde

Chip Kelly was one of the worst GMs this league has ever seen. That doesn't mean he's an awful coach. What's more certain than anything is that Chip's style lends itself to bloated fantasy stats. During his three years with the Eagles, his offense ranked second, first and 12th in plays per game. More plays obviously means more chances for stats. That's good news for San Francisco's best offensive player, Carlos Hyde. This is a gifted back who has averaged 4.05 YPC in his brief NFL career despite difficult circumstances. Although DeMarco Murray busted with the Eagles, remember that LeSean McCoy posted 314-1,607-9 and 213-1 and 319-5 in two seasons with Chip.

Eli gets what Eli wants

Eli Manning likes Ben McAdoo. He publicly pushed for his offensive coordinator to replace Tom Coughlin and lend the continuity that often helps a scheme. Note that since McAdoo took over the Giants' offense two years ago, Eli posted at least 4,400 yards and 30 TDs each season. In nine full seasons before that, he eclipsed those marks just one time. Seemingly always available in the double-digit rounds of fantasy drafts, Manning has finished as the QB10 in back-to-back seasons.

Marking up DeMarco

Perhaps we should have had low expectations for DeMarco Murray in 2015. He was coming off a 497-touch season, just got paid and was going to a team with major questions at the guard positions. Now it's time for a bounce-back under new coach Doug Pederson, who will run more of the power scheme Murray is suited for. Under Andy Reid in Kansas City, Pederson helped guide one of the most RB-friendly schemes in the league as seen with Jamaal Charles as well as the explosive short-term stints with Knile Davis, Charcandrick West and Spencer Ware. Murray is still just 27 years old.

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Public Storage Located At, 8401 Lansdowne Ave, Upper Darby, PA 19082; (610) 789-1062; 11:00 AM.

A124 - Thigpen, Gey • A304 - Bethea, Victor • A649 - Mangum, Edith
A713 - Hardy, Crystal • A813 - Benson, Antonio • B3017 - Wright, Gwendolyn • B934 - Holland, Sean

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A134 - Smith Jr., Frederick • A166 - Cooper, Regina • A168 - Higgins, Melody • A169 - Mitchell, Allyn • A182 - FOIL, LORI • A204 - Vincent, Charlito • B301 - Bolton, Tyson B318 - Lewis, Shannon • B439 - Hollingsworth, Shaine • B452 - Scott, Valerie • B456 - Rhodes, Sara • C507 - Pflyte, Annette • C520 - Wright, Tawnya • C537 - Robinson, Carmen C608 - Crippen, William • C643 - Perkins, Sasha • D843 - Hampton, Samuel • E1025 - Owens, Victoria • E926 - Evenders, Latonya • F1130 - Rogesters, Cheryl F1117 - Scott, Sarita • F1135 - Paige, Joyce • F1230 - Clark, Monique • G1326 - Mckeown, Arthur • G1332 - McCracken, Harriet • G1419 - Dukes, Delphyne G1426 - Shoemake, Cornelius • H1504 - Kelly Jr, Ronald • H1586 - Robinson, Carmen • H1532 - Harvey Jr, James • H1637 - Merritt, Bryan

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B057- Aiken, Gloria • E308 - Joyce, Elizabeth
E313 - Joyce, Elizabeth • E347 - Lombardo Iii, Harry

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1162 - Flanagan, Joseph • 2010 - Henry, Hugh • 2082 - Flamer, Maurietta
2092 - Liburd, Denise • 3142 - Coleman, Malcolm

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1052 - Welburn, Kevin • 1340 - Cooley, Kim
1556 - Hoffman, Stacey

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B004 - Grant, Bricka • B211 - Ennis, David • B238 - Wright, Andrea • C076 - Bouikidis, Heriklia
C093 - Turner, Donna • C240 - Opong-Peprah, Rosemary

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2ND FLOOR DUPLEX FOR RENT
$750/month + utilities
54XX Arlington St.
Near Septa G/52/43/40
54th Street Shopping District
215-833-8555

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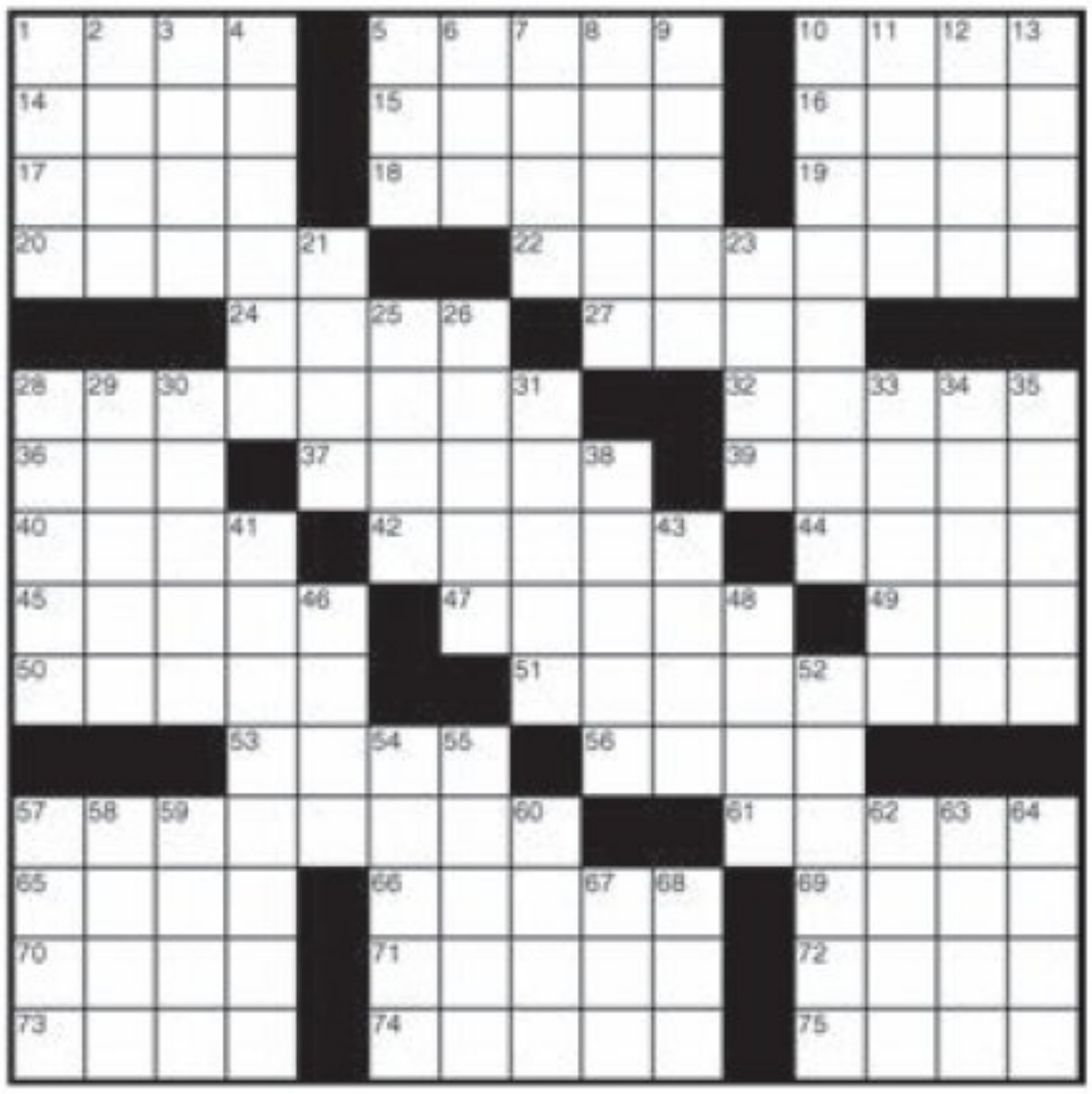
metro.us/crossword



Across

1 Gets stuck
5 — Rice Burroughs
10 Time can do it
14 La senorita
15 At a slow tempo
16 Teen bane
17 Willowy
18 Show teeth
19 Desktop picture
20 Golfer Sam —
22 Pollen and honey (2 wds.)
24 Loud arguments
27 Business VIP
28 Keats wrote a poem about him
32 Waugh and Baldwin
36 Average guy
37 Vintage tune
39 Ms. Washington of blues
40 Recedes
42 Two under par
44 Pumice feature
45 Modeling media
47 Evade, as work
49 1040 pro
50 Contract provisos
51 At the same time
53 Natural elevs.
56 Pamplona runner
57 Dehydrates (2 wds.)
61 Elizabethan collars
65 Monthly expense
66 Pet pleas
69 Role for Liz
70 Omnia vincit —
71 Dwight opponent
72 Loaf end
73 Broadway trophy
74 Caribou and elk
75 Padlock brand

Down

1 Boeing products
2 Arkin or Alda
3 Marseilles Ms.
4 Earnings
5 Urban people-movers
6 Karate level
7 Clutch
8 See eye-to-eye
9 Omega rival
10 Barrette
11 Livy's "Lo!"
12 Dwarf buffalo
13 Give temporarily
21 Thank you, in Kyoto
23 Dewdrop
25 — E. Coyote
26 Fizzy drinks
28 Cockpit button
29 High-born
30 Blackball
31 Vampire's shift
33 Tennyson's — Arden
34 — diem
35 Harvest wool
38 George who was a she
41 Balance
43 Hence
46 Mach 1 breakers
48 Golden State coach
52 Quick to take offense
54 Tent dweller
55 Type of jacket
57 Confound it!
58 San — (Riviera resort)
59 Privy to (2 wds.)
60 Decorated tinware
62 Kind of collar
63 Have a hunch
64 One-and-only
67 Armed conflict
68 Lisa, to Bart

metro.us/sudoku

easy

	4	3	8			2		
					2		7	
6			9	7	3	8		
4	8	7						
2								8
						5	4	3
		8	2	4	7			5
	2		5					
		9			6	4	2	

hard

1			6			2	8	
	9	4			8			
8	5		7					1
			9	5		6		
5								9
		9		6	1			
7					6		2	3
			3			9	4	
	3	5			2			7

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't let anyone sidetrack you with negativity and roadblocks. Go about your business and get whatever job you've been given done. Responsibility will be your saving grace.

Taurus Emotions will surface, making it easier for you to express your feelings. Say what's on your mind in order to feel better and make progress with the people you encounter.

Gemini Think about what you are doing and the results you are trying to achieve. Don't be fooled by someone offering unrealistic solutions. Bring about changes that won't put you in debt.

Cancer Accept what you cannot change, but look for alternatives to what you are stuck with. You can make a difference if you are willing to do what's necessary to achieve happiness.

Leo Sidestep without conflict anyone who gets in your way. Simply back off and go about your business. Choose not to argue. Personal success is the best revenge.

Virgo If you offer solutions, you will attract an audience. Take care of your health and well-being. Abandon bad influences or excess in any way, shape or form.

Libra Stay under the radar. You will stand a better chance of gaining acceptance if you present a flawless plan. Don't share until you are prepared to face questions, opposition and negativity.

Scorpio It would be good to reconnect with an old co-worker. Together, you can build something concrete, implementing old ideas with new trends.

Sagittarius Reflect upon your past and present, and adjust whatever needs to be changed in order to get back on track. Overindulgence will drag you down, but solutions will prop you up.

Capricorn No one is perfect. Have patience and listen to what others have to say before you respond. Let your intuition guide you to make the right decision and take the proper action.

Aquarius Travel and matters involving an authority figure or foreigners are favored. Stick to the rules and look at the fine print in order to avoid a mistake or loss. Make every move count.

Pisces Keep your plans reasonable. If you take on too much, you could overextend yourself. Use your head and focus on frugal methods to reach your goal. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

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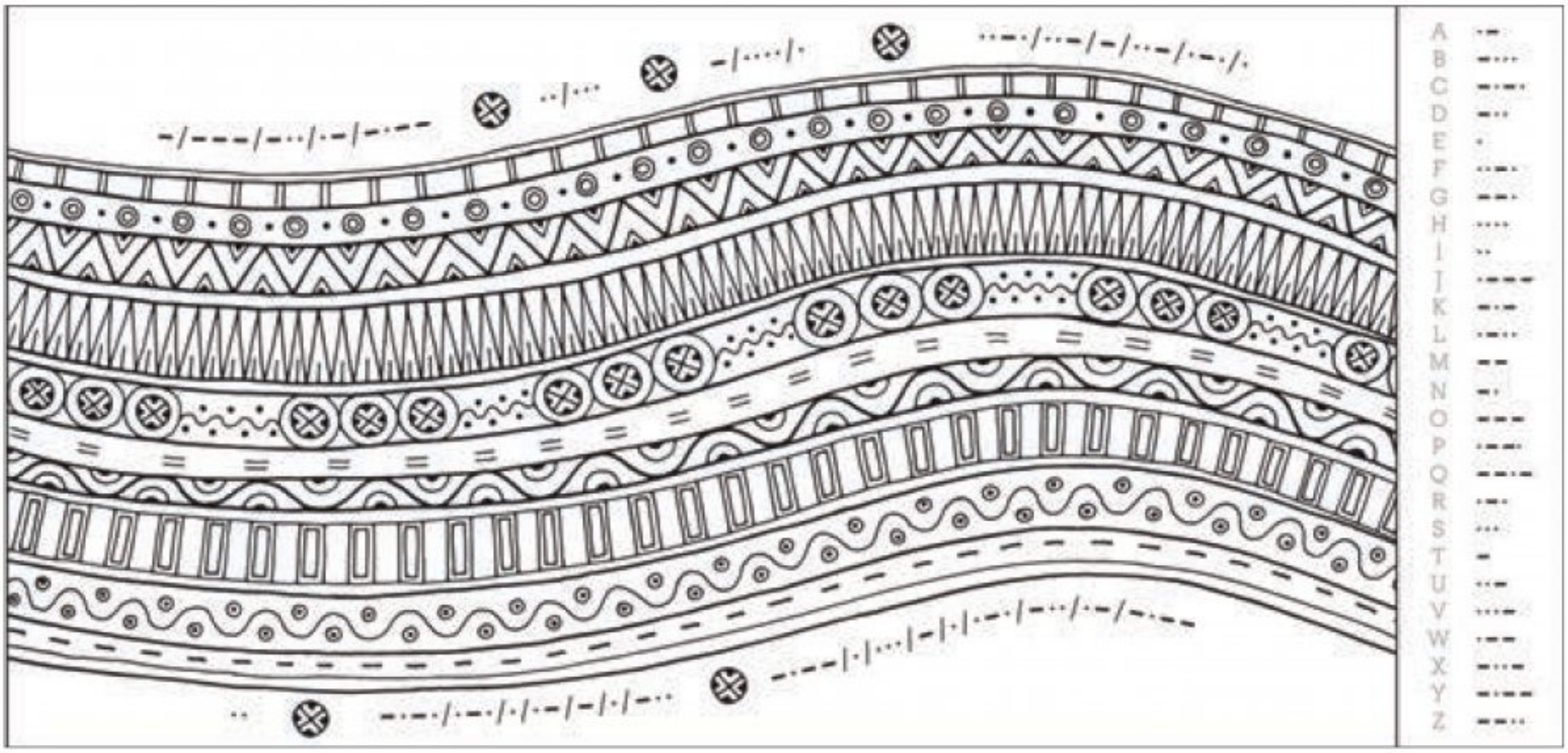

As you color, you'll come across some hidden treasures. See how many you can find.

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE NOTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

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